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Fifty-fourth session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly decided to allocate 10 items to the Sixth Committee. The titles of those items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 17 September 1999 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/54/1).

II. Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The following table lists the documents of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of the Assembly at preceding sessions, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,[1] in accordance with requests of Member States.

[1] The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the fifty-fourth session. The listing of documents is based on information available as at 21 September 1999.

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Projected date of issuance

Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [152]

Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/266) ..... Issued

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/54/10), chapter VII and annex[2] ..... 27 September

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [153]

Report of the Secretary-General ..... Early November

United Nations Decade of International Law [154]

(a) United Nations Decade of International Law

Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/362) ..... 11 October

(b) Outcome of the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/98) ..... Issued

Letter dated 10 September 1999 from the Governments of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation (A/54/381) ..... 11 October

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session [155]

Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/54/10) ..... 27 September

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-second session [156]

Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/54/17) ..... 27 September

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [157]

Report of the Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/54/26) ... Early November

Establishment of an international criminal court [158]

Proceedings of the Preparatory Commission at its first session (PCNICC/1999/L.3/Rev.1) ..... Issued

[2] A copy of the report of the Working Group of the International Law Commission on this topic (A/CN.4/L.584/Add.1) was attached to letter LA/COD/23 dated 23 August 1999, addressed to Permanent Representatives.

Proceedings of the Preparatory Commission at its second session (PCNICC/1999/L.4/Rev.1) ..... 24 September

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/98) ..... Issued

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [159]

Report of the Special Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/54/33) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/54/383) ..... 11 October

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the publication of supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/54/363) ..... 11 October

Measures to eliminate international terrorism [160]

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/54/37) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General (A/54/301 and Add.1) ..... 25 October

Letters dated 16 March, 19 April and 21 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/74-S/1998/300, A/54/82-S/1999/463 and A/54/138-S/1999/704) ..... Issued

Letters dated 13 and 16 April 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/78-S/1999/420 and A/54/81) ..... Issued

Letter dated 30 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/90) ..... Issued

Letter dated 5 May 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/94-S/1999/518) ..... Issued

Letter dated 30 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/283-S/1999/927) ..... Issued

Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [161]

No advance documentation.

III. Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Sixth Committee, indicated in paragraph 12 below, it is proposed that the Committee set a target date of 19 November 1999 for the conclusion of its work.

6. The Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it:

	Approximate dates of consideration
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [160] (Working Group) (see para. 9 below)	27 September-8 October 1999
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-second session [156]	11-12 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [159]	13-15 October
United Nations Decade of International Law [154]	18-19 October
Establishment of an international criminal court [158]	20-22 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-first session [155]	25 October-5 November
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [152] (Working Group) (see para. 7 below)	8-10 November
Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [161]	11 November
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law [153]	12 November
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [160]	12-16 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [157]	18 November
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [152]	19 November

IV. Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations

7. As regards agenda item 152, "Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property", the General Assembly, by resolution 53/98 of 8 December 1998, decided to establish at its fifty-fourth session an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee, open also to participation by States members of the specialized agencies, to consider outstanding substantive issues related to the draft articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property adopted by the International Law Commission, taking into account the recent developments of State practice and legislation and any other factors related to this issue since the adoption of the draft articles, as well as the comments submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 49/61 and paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 52/151, and to consider whether there are any issues identified by the working group upon which it would be useful to seek further comments and recommendations of the Commission.

8. As regards agenda item 154, "United Nations Decade of International Law", the General Assembly, by resolution 53/100 of 8 December 1998, requested the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the item to continue its work at the fifty-fourth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work.

9. Concerning agenda item 160, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the General Assembly, by resolution 53/108 of 8 December 1998, recommended that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by its resolution 51/210 continue during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly from 27 September to 8 October 1999 within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee.

10. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee, as indicated in paragraph 12 below, any meetings for working groups or for informal consultations would have to be accommodated in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings allocated to the Committee.

V. Deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

11. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditure by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if 19 November is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), 2 November 1999 would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VI. Conference resources available

12. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold no more than nine plenary meetings per week and the working group referred to in paragraph 9 above to hold 10 meetings per week. Normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

13. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.